

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

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HAER No. CA-211

Central Pacific Transcontinental Railroad, Tunnel 38
Southern Pacific Donner Pass Route Tunnels
Milepost 180.58
Cisco
Placer County
California

For written information regarding Tunnel 38, please refer to Central Pacific Transcontinental Railroad (HAER No. CA-196). Note also that all references to tunnel portals are given in Southern Pacific Railroad terminology. Headquartered in San Francisco, the SP considered all trains heading *away* from San Francisco to be eastbound, all trains heading *toward* San Francisco to be westbound, regardless of actual cardinal direction. Thus a train heading north from Los Angeles to Portland would be westbound until it passed San Francisco, at which time it would become eastbound. Similarly, the railroad referred to all tunnels and other structures along its lines in the same fashion, with tunnels always having west and east portals. Direction of view in the captions will indicate cardinal direction.

Documentation: 3 photographs (1997)

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John Snyder, Field Director

PHOTOGRAPHS

CA-211-1 West portal of Tunnel 38, contextual view to east, 135mm lens. West portal of Tunnel 3 (HAER CA-212) on original Central Pacific Transcontinental line visible in distance at left.

CA-211-2 West portal of Tunnel 38, view to east, 135mm lens. Note the notched wingwalls that support steel posts of entrance snowshed; these would have originally held timber posts of the original timber snowsheds, miles of which once enclosed and protected the railroad from the ravages of Sierra winters. Note also that these tunnels, built in the 1920s, have dispensed with any use of stone masonry, and instead have all-concrete portals.

CA-211-3 East portal of Tunnel 38, view to west, 135mm lens with electronic flash fill.

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